

February 2024

## **Christ the King School News**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Staffing Update**

This term we have welcomed Mrs Debbie Clothier to Year 2, and Mr Dominic Faulkes, to our SEND Team. Miss Mahon has also joined us as Year 2 MSA and a 1:1 SEND TA. They have all settled in well and have made positive relationships with the children they are working with.

Mrs Luford's maternity leave will start after half term and the post is currently being advertised. We will update you of the successful candidate following interviews.

### **RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch**

This February, the whole school is getting involved in the RSPB's Big Schools Birdwatch. If you have a pair of binoculars, your child's class teacher will let you know which day they are going to carry out the survey.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

### **Donations to the Homeless**

Thank you so much for your generous donations. The Mini Vinnies asked, and you certainly delivered! Your gifts were sent out in backpacks to our fellow brothers and sisters who have fallen on the f=hardest of times. The gift of love shown by you all will have been so greatly appreciated.



## Parking on the Zig Zags



YELLOW zig-zag lines on the road are most often seen outside schools, yet many motorists are still unsure as to what they mean.

Also commonly found outside hospitals, police and fire stations, yellow zig-zag lines have a very specific meaning but signs next to them may suggest to drivers that the rules only apply between certain hours, which seems to be the source of many people's confusion.

Let's take a look at what yellow zig-zag lines mean and clear up some misconceptions.

### **Is it illegal to park on zig-zag lines outside schools?**

**Yes, it's always illegal to park on yellow zig-zag lines anywhere.** Rule 243 of the Highway Code indicates a range of places where motorists must not park, including on a bend, a dropped kerb or the brow of a hill. It also states that drivers must not park near a school entrance, anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services or near a bus stop, tram stop or taxi rank. Again, the rule will often — but not always — be made obvious with yellow zig-zags on the road.

**Parking outside a school specifically may obstruct visibility for parents and children trying to cross the road and is thus highly dangerous.**



## Uniform

**Uniform matters** - we pride ourselves on high standards of presentation. All pupils should wear the correct school uniform including a jumper or cardigan with the school logo.

PE uniform has slipped this term and we remind all parents that we expect all pupils to wear correct school PE uniform:

- White polo shirt (school logo optional)
- Plain navy blue shorts
- Plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms (not leggings)
- Plain navy blue track suit top (one piece or zip up)

**NO black / other colours or logo wear is allowed.**



During this **cold weather** spell please ensure your child has **extra layers**, such as a thermal vest. The heating is on in school throughout the day, but to ensure we have good ventilation, some classroom windows will be open throughout the day.

**Hair styles** should be suitable for school – NO SHAVED cuts please. Shoes should be black - slip on shoes for girls are NOT encouraged as they inhibit safe playtime play.

### **ONLINE SAFETY**

Safer Internet Day this year is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. We constantly remind children in school about how to keep safe online. How can parents help children to stay safe on online games and apps? It is natural to worry about the dangers of online games and apps. But you can help your child learn how to keep themselves safe by following these steps:

- Take an interest
- Teach your child how to stay safe online (such as the SMART rules) [Be SMART online | Childnet](#)
- Check if a game/app is appropriate
- Use parental controls
- Make time for other activities
- Be open

[Parents Protect - Internet Safety](#)

### **Spring Term Parent Consultations**

Appointments letters will go out on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January and on-line booking will go live on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Face-to-face consultations are scheduled for:

<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parent Consultations 3-6pm
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Parent Consultations (Year 4 only)
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Parent Consultations 3-6pm (Not Year 4)

### **Children's Mental Health Week – 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Here are some ideas for families to try at home.

[Families - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](#)

## **Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 5-11 February 2024. The theme this year is 'My Voice Matters'.**

**My Voice Matters** is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters."

**READING IS IMPORTANT**

It is a school expectation that all children read daily out loud to an adult for 15 minutes. The more children read, the more fluent they become. Fluent readers make confident readers and reading is the key to all areas of learning!

**Attendance Matters**

In school we often say ‘every moment matters’ - teachers plan every moment and it is always difficult for some children to catch up if moments, days, even weeks are lost due to school absence. Some absence cannot be avoided, i.e. sickness, family bereavement; however, we are seeing a rise in absences due to extended holidays.

There are very few circumstances for which absence may be authorised - these exceptional circumstances are listed on the website and are agreed by our Trust Board.

**ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY**



**Did You Know... ?**

If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

**Getting Your Child to School Really Matters**

<b>190</b> days in school	10 days absent	19 days absent (almost 4 weeks missed)	29 days absent (about half a term missed)	38 days absent (8 weeks missed)	47 days absent (Almost 10 weeks missed – over a quarter of the school year)
	<b>180</b> days in school	<b>171</b> days in school	<b>161</b> days in school	<b>152</b> days in school	<b>143</b> days in school
<b>100%</b> attendance	<b>95%</b> attendance	<b>90%</b> attendance	<b>85%</b> attendance	<b>80%</b> attendance	<b>75%</b> attendance
Excellent record	Good record	Needs to improve	Cause for concern	Poor	Very poor
Gives the best possible opportunity for success! You are likely to achieve your potential and meet or exceed your targets! Well done!		Gives less chance of success. You are less likely to achieve your potential and meet your targets.		Much less chance of success. You are unlikely to achieve your potential and meet your targets.	

**What should my child bring to school?**

- During these cold months children should bring a warm coat, hat and gloves to school. We encourage learning and play outdoors so they need to stay warm.
- A small rucksack (KS2) or a school bookbag (Year R to Year 2)
- Their reading log and home learning logs including reading books.
- Do not bring in toys from home – we cannot take responsibility for them.

- Mobile phones are only permitted for Upper KS2 walkers – all phones are securely stored during the school day.
- No smart watches are allowed in school.
- A clear water bottle – containing water only.

### **What age can my child walk to school?**

We give permission to pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 only to walk to and from school – we must receive written permission from the parent / carer for the child to be released. In the event of a local police alert we contact the parents of all walkers. Children in Year 4 and below MUST be accompanied by a parent to their classroom door at drop off in the morning.

### **Safeguarding**

Our guiding principle in keeping our children safe is to believe that 'IT COULD HAPPEN HERE! This ensures we are never complacent and always vigilant. Staff risk assess all activities that could pose a risk, including cooking, sporting and some science and design activities. All trips are risk assessed also.

We maintain a list in school of pupils who do not have permission to have their photos taken or used in our school media platforms. For some parents this is a choice, but for others it is for safeguarding reasons. We acknowledge that not being able to photo or film your child at school events can be disappointing.

Although we need to abide by our safeguarding guidance, we certainly will look at ways that we can share memories of these events in the future in a way that keeps all children safe.

### **Prevent – information for parents**

What is the Prevent strategy?

Prevent is a government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extremist causes.

The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent Islamist groups and other causes.

How does the Prevent strategy apply to schools?

From July 2015 all schools (as well as other organisations) have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism.

This means we have a responsibility to protect children from extremist and violent views the same way we protect them from drugs or gang violence.

Importantly, we can provide a safe place for pupils to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves.

What does this mean in practice?

Many of the things we already do in school to help children become positive, happy members of society, also contribute to the Prevent strategy.

These include:

- Exploring other cultures and religions and promoting diversity.
- Challenging prejudices and racist comments
- Developing critical thinking skills and a strong, positive self -identity.
- Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, as well as British values such as democrac

We will also protect children from the risk of radicalisation, for example by using filters on the internet to

make sure they can't access extremist and terrorist material, or by vetting visitors who come into schools. Different schools will carry out the Prevent duty in different ways, depending on the age of the children and the needs of the community.

### **Relational Behaviour Policy**

The school behaviour policy is heavily focused upon relational behaviour management and follows a restorative justice approach. This in practice means that we work hard to ensure routines and expectations in school are consistent so that children feel secure and safe in their environment. Children should trust their adults and believe that they are loved. We use our 8Bs (our school values) to guide us to manage behaviour, agree logical consequences for poor behaviour and also to structure support to improve behaviour. We recognise that getting the adult behaviour right is the first step in getting our children's behaviour right.

You can read our policy on our website.



### **Special Educational Needs: Top Tips to Help your Child**

If you know/think your child has Special Educational Needs, there are a number of ways you can help:

- Be patient and positive, always encourage your child to 'have a go' at homework independently. Help them develop a 'can do' attitude.
- Use practical things/games to make maths learning more fun – use dolls, cars, etc, things that interest your child to help them learn and solve simple mathematics problems.
- Organisation and remembering things can be hard – break instructions down to avoid overloading their memory.
- Talk to your child's class teacher if you are worried.
- Come along to one of our Parent Hub Coffee Afternoons to talk to our inclusion team and our SENDCo Mrs Watts. Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm.

### **Pre-School**

Pre-School places are filling up fast. If your child is turning 3 between Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2023— August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 you should contact the office, complete a booking form and reserve your place as soon as possible.

### **Help Wanted - A New Year Commitment to help in school**

Could you volunteer an hour a week to be a 1:1 reader? Do you have any gardening knowledge to help with our eco-club? If yes, we would welcome your help, please contact the school office.

### **Sports and PE News**

Some children in Year 5 and 6 have completed a short swimming programme at Pelhams. We hope to resume the swimming course once a new pool location can be found.



Well done to some of our netball team who won their first competitive netball fixture. The score was 12-3 to CTK. Some great teamwork shown, well done!

YR 5 football match on Wednesday. We lost 3-1 but they played really well and showed amazing sportsmanship!

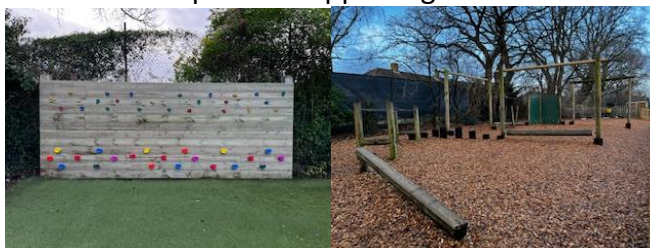
### **PTFA Events**

Thank you to everyone who supported our PTFA events last term – the Christmas Fayre was incredible! Thank you to the PTFA committee for organising these events and to all those that helped. The fundraising so far has helped support our playground enhancement project. A huge congratulations to the PTFA for proactively sourcing grants to help us reach our target! 😊

### **Playground Update**

The Key Stage 1 and Early Years play equipment is now fully in use! Thank you to Benson Building for completing the work over half term, holidays and weekends.

The Key Stage 2 equipment is due to be completed soon. Then we are just left to fundraise for the final amount to have the MUGA base replaced. Supporting PTFA events this term will help us reach this target!



### **Residential Visit**

Year 5- Leeson House Residential Visit -13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> March. A letter will be sent out detailing the full list of items to pack and any other need to know information.

### **Parent Prayer Group**

Mrs Hannah Butler (Parent), will be running a Parent Prayer Group on the fourth Thursday of each month: January 25th, February 22nd, March 28th and so on. Meet after drop off, 20 minutes to pray for the school and all who study and work here. Anyone welcome. Please email hannahebutler84@hotmail.com or turn up on Thursday. The Prayer Group will meet in the school hall. Please enter via the school office. Everyone will need to sign in so that our Fire Registers are compliant.

### Key Dates

Date	Heading
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	INSET School Closed
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany Mass 9.30am
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Yr3 First Holy Communion Reconciliation Service
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January - Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	RSPB Big School's Birdwatch - Whole School
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 8.30am	Parent Prayer Group
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	PTFA Discos EYFS/KS1, KS2
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	PTFA Quiz Night
WB Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2-4pm.	Parent Hub Coffee Afternoons to talk to our inclusion team and our SENDCo Mrs Watts.
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	RHE Parent Information Session - 2pm
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February- Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET School Closed
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	World Day of Social Justice
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3-6pm



Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am Parent Consultations (Year 4 only)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 8.30am	Parent Prayer Group
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Parent Consultations 3-6pm (Not Year 4)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	PTFA Coin Challenge
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	CAFOD LENT Family Fast Day Cafod Big Lent Walk
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Key Stage 1 Book Look
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Key Stage 2 Book Look
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1 Phonics information session 3pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	MTC Information session 3pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	KS2 SATs Information session 3pm

### Reflection for January

In the readings for the last Sunday in January the Psalmist writes:

***‘O that today you would listen to His voice!’ Psalm 95:8***

The Daily prayers of that week remind children of how amazing Jesus’ teaching is. Children learn that we can all listen to His voice today!

Listening to what Jesus says brings joy and children learn that we can respond by sharing that joy in simple ways... like sharing a smile or a kind word with those we meet.

Perhaps you would like to include this prayer within your family prayer time.

Dear Jesus,

**I want to listen to your voice today!**

**Help me to hear you  
and fill me with your joy.**

**Amen**

### **Let Us Pray**

#### **We give thanks for:**

- The new year and the celebrations we enjoyed over the holidays.
- The new school year and the opportunity to learn new things.
- The enthusiasm of staff and their commitment to keeping all children safe.
- All those who lead extra-curricular clubs, especially those that volunteer freely.
- The small things – the donations to school and those supporting our most vulnerable.
- Our clergy and parish communities.

#### **We pray for:**

- Families within our community who have experienced loss this winter, may they be comforted.
- All those who are sick, especially those dear to us who are receiving end of life care, may they be comforted with faith, hope and love.
- World leaders who are working to bring peace to Nations around the world.
- Our local clergy and those leading our local churches.

**And finally,** we wish all of our families well over these cold winter months.

Kind regards,

Melanie Lord  
Headteacher

